



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/066,519

Filing Date: January 31, 2002

Applicant: Walters, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: Anu Ramana

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANIPULATING A FLEXIBLE STRAND AND SOFT TISSUE REPLACEMENT DURING SURGERY

Attorney Docket: 5490-000269

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RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

12/31/2003 SBRYCE 00090002 6007.00 10000010

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Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 30, 2003, for which the time period to respond extends to December 30, 2003, Applicants elect claims of Group III (Claims 37-46), with traverse.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the Restriction Requirement since it appears that the subject matter defined within all the groups of claims are similar. Consequently, the field of search for each group should be essentially coextensive. Thus,

U.S. Serial No.10/066,519
Attorney Docket No. 5490-000269

the burden on the Examiner will not be significant to maintain each group of claims in this application.

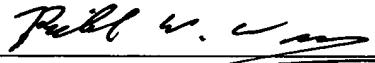
Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding the election, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
Attorney for Applicants

Dated: Dec. 17, 2003

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12-18103



3732

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HDP/SB/21 based on PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>		Application Number	10/066,519
		Filing Date	January 31, 2002
		First Named Inventor	Walters, et al.
		Group Art Unit	3732
		Examiner Name	Anu Ramana
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	5490-000269

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below)		
	Return postcard RECEIVED DEC 23 2003 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 10700		
	Remarks The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Richard W. Warner	Reg. No. 38, 043
Signature			
Date	October 17, 2003		

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

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